

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 JUSE-00
SEC-01 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6508
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 12354

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECOSOC, EGEN, UN, XF, PORG
SUBJECT: 63RD ECOSOC: INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON
ILLICIT PAYMENTS

REF: (A) STATE 172161; (B) LONDON 12238

1. THE E/C MINISTER ON JULY 26 RAISED THE ISSUE OF
THE BRITISH POSITION ON CONVENING A DIPLOMATIC CONFER-
ENCE WITH SIR LEO PLIATZKY, PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE. PLIATZKY BEGAN HIS RESPONSE WITH
A FORCEFUL ASSURANCE THAT HE, HIS SECRETARY OF STATE
(DELL), AND THE WHOLE BRITISH GOVERNMENT SHARED U.S.
OBJECTIVES IN THIS AREA. HOWEVER, THEY FELT IT ONLY
SENSIBLE TO MAKE SURE THAT THE NECESSARY PREPARATORY
WORK HAD BEEN DONE BEFORE THE CONFERENCE ACTUALLY
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COMMENCED.

2. AS THE CONVERSATION DEVELOPED, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT
THE BRITISH TACTICAL CAVEAT HAS A SUBSTANTIVE BASIS.
THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT DOES FEEL THAT UNILATERAL RE-
STRICTION ON QUESTIONABLE COMMERCIAL ORACTICES IN THIRD
MARKETS IS IMOOSIBLE, AND THAT MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT

IS THE WAY TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE OF RESTRICTING QUESTIONABLE PRACTICES. HOWEVER, THE SORT OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT THE BRITISH WOULD FAVOR IS CONSIDERABLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT THEY THINK THE U.S. WANTS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, THEY HAVE LEGAL AND POLICY PROBLEMS REGARDING BOTH CRIMINALIZATION AND EXTRATERRITORIALITY.

3. PLIATZKY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WILLINGNESS OF THE BRITISH TO SCHEDULE A CONFERENCE IS CONDITIONED BY THE NATURE OF THE AGREEMENT LIKELY TO EMERGE FROM THAT CONFERENCE. HE THINKS, ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT THE BRITISH ATTITUDE IS NEITHER WRONG NOR UNIQUE; HE SUGGESTED THAT THE GERMANS TAKE A VERY SIMILAR VIEW. IN AN EVIDENT EFFORT TO SHOW HIS, AND BRITISH GOODWILL, HE SAID HE WOULD COMMIT HIS GOVERNMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON THIS ISSUE WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE NOTED THAT HE WOULD LIKE HIMSELF TO VISIT WASHINGTON IN OCTOBER AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE THEN, (SEE SEPTTEL) BUT WE GATHER THAT HE DID NOT MEAN TO PRECLUDE AN EARLIER MEETING NOT INVOLVING HIM, SHOULD THIS BE DESIRED.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE ARE REAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US AND BRITISH VIEWS ON THIS PROBLEM AND APPROPRIATE REMEDIES AND THAT CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE USEFUL.
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FOR, BASED ON PLIATZKY'S COMMENTS, THE WAY TO BRING THE BRITISH ALONG, WE BELIEVE, WILL NOT BE TO REITERATE AT PLIATZKY'S OR HIGHER LEVELS OUR TACTICAL OBJECTIVES, BUT RATHER TO HEAR OUT UK SUGGESTIONS, RECOGNIZING THAT THEIR VIEWS ON TACTICS REFLECT SUBSTANTIVE CONCERNS THAT WILL NEED TO BE MET IN SOME WAY. WE BELIEVE EARLY BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS CAN HELP SMOOTH THE WAY TO MEETING US OBJECTIVES.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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